

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 19 Feb 52

SUBJECT Disposal of Personal Documents of
Deceased Persons

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
INFO

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Upon the death of an individual in Czechoslovakia, if he has not been under medical care just prior to his death, the first to be notified is the State District Physician. The physician performs an examination to make certain the person is dead and to determine the cause of death. He then writes the results of this examination on the Death Certificate (ohledavaci list) which is required before the deceased's affairs can be settled. In cases where an individual was being treated by a general practitioner prior to his death, the State District Physician is still the only person who is authorized to conduct the medical examination. The general practitioner must report to the State District Physician the method used to treat the patient.
2. The Death Certificate issued to the deceased's next of kin by the State District Physician is first taken to the Local National Committee office for registration, and an Official Death Certificate (umrtvi list) is then issued. This document is required before the deceased may be buried. The Local National Committee informs the local SNB office of the death, and the appropriate entry is made in the SNB card files which are kept on individuals residing within a given district. The SNB office then

permission from the SNB station command to carry out his wishes. The permit is written on the Official Death Certificate. This is then

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at the [REDACTED]
the Local National Committee of his legal residence to pay the expenses.
The Local National Committee where he legally resided informs the local SNB office which makes the appropriate entry in their card files. The same is also done at the SNB office in the town in which the individual died. If the deceased had personal property or real estate, the SNB ascertains whether there are any living relatives and if none are found, the estate is sold at auction and the money gained is used to pay the Local National Committee for the expenses of burial. The authorities decide then what will be done with the rest of the [REDACTED]

ID card and the Official Death Certificate to the Local National Committee and an entry is made on the ID card showing the date and place of death and the card is returned to the relative. Ration cards may not be used after the day the person to whom they were issued dies. These cards are registered at the appropriate office and records are changed accordingly. Official cards and legal papers which allow the bearer special privileges, such as the official card of SNB members, STB members, the official badge and card for employees of price control offices, etc., must all be returned to the issuing office. Cards authorizing special rail rates must be returned to the office which employed the deceased and the office returns them to the issuing agency. If the above-mentioned documents and credentials are not returned, the authorities who issued the documents attempt, with the aid of the SNB and the Local National Committee, to find the documents and secure proof that they have been returned. Other documents, such as license for carrying weapons, military book, all [REDACTED] society are not considered important by [REDACTED] retained by the deceased's family.

6. If the deceased has no relatives, his personal documents are retained by the Local National Committee or by the local SNB station. Documents which serve as identification are returned to the proper issuing agency. If the documents are given to the janitor or house manager, he must either hand them over to the deceased's relatives or to the nearest SNB station or Local National Committee.

7. In case of a fatal accident or violent death, the person authorized to care for the body is the SNB member who first arrives at the scene. He searches the clothes of the deceased and takes all personal belongings and documents found on the body. These belongings and documents are later submitted to the legal court along with the SNB member's report of the case. The personal documents which are sent to court are not considered important to the legal procedure, and if the relatives wish, they may come and claim them. If no one calls for them, they are kept with the record of the case and are returned to the appropriate issuing agencies by the court.

8. In the case of death by accident or on [REDACTED] violence an autopsy is always performed by a legal commiss [REDACTED] Stat [REDACTED]
le [REDACTED]
sy [REDACTED]
de [REDACTED]
and is in charge of handling all suspects.

19. In the event of death by accident in an office or national enterprise, an SNB member is immediately called to investigate the case. He either turns over the personal belongings and documents directly to the family, or he sends the documents to the issuing authorities and merely returns the personal belongings to the relatives. In any case, the relatives are given the ID card of the deceased, so that the necessary entry concerning the death may be made by the Local National Committee. In the event that a factory foreman or factory physician or militia member has already removed the deceased's personal papers and belongings, these must all be turned over to the SNB investigator upon his arrival.

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telegraphs the Ministry of National Defense and the unit to which the deceased belonged. At the same time, the hospital also informs the parents or relatives of the deceased and his Local National Committee or local SNB station. The soldier's military book is returned to the issuing unit by the military hospital. The company of the deceased soldier returns all civilian personal documents together with his ID card to the SNB station where the deceased maintained his legal residence. If a member of the armed forces is killed on [REDACTED] suicide, or meets with violent death in some other way [REDACTED] unit sends a telegram to the Ministry of National Defense, [REDACTED] incident to the military procurator, to the superior command and to the soldier's family, or to the SNB station or Local National Committee where the deceased maintained his legal residence. The commander then asks a military legal commission to be dispatched to the [REDACTED]

a [REDACTED] does not interfere with accidents which involve only military personnel, but is interested solely in cases in which civilians are implicated. In such instances, the SNB investigates the civilian concerned, while the DOZ handles the investigation of military personnel.

11. Military personnel are not permitted to retain their personal documents, legal papers, membership cards, etc. during the period of compulsory military service. The ID card is kept together with the soldier's military record by the military authorities. The card is returned to the owner at the end of his military service. Ration cards and food tickets are turned over to the Quartermaster Service at the beginning of the soldier's military service. The Quartermaster is responsible for sending these cards and tickets back to the individual's Local National Committee. Legal papers and cards of any kind (sic) are returned by the soldier to his employer before he enters the service.
12. Upon the death of a member of the armed forces, the Death Certificate is issued by a military chief physician. Then the Local National Committee at the place where the body is to be buried may issue an Official Death Certificate. If the soldier has no relatives, the Army assumes responsibility for the burial and expenses involved. Personal documents of the deceased are sent by the company to the Local National Committee where the deceased legally resided prior to his entry into military service.
13. The further use of a deceased person's documents is possible only so long as the illegal holder of the documents is not screened, since all documents are registered by the individual issuing offices, and since records of deaths are kept by both the local SNB station where the deceased resided and by the Local National Committee.

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